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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5547
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RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE 1636
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASTANA 000957

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/06/2059

TAGS: PREL MARR RSZ TI TX UZ KG KZ

SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON LETHAL TRANSIT
NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIA

REF: SECSTATE 54767

Classified By: Ambassador Richard E. Hoagland, 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (C) Ambassador delivered reftel demarche on June 5 to
Presidential Foreign Policy Advisor Kairat Sarybai.

¶2. (C) The Ambassador explained that the initiative for the
possible transit of lethal materiel across Russian territory
came from President Medvedev, and he told Sarybai that he
wanted to brief him on the matter in the spirit of
transparency and openness.

¶3. (C) Sarybai said he would "brief my boss" (President
Nazarbayev) on the issue and told the Ambassador, "I
appreciate your attitude of greater transparency with us in
your relationship with Russia." Sarybai said he understood
how this issue was relevant to Kazakhstan and reminded the
Ambassador of the words from President Nazarbayev to Vice
President Biden, "All of the issues on your international
agenda are somehow connected to Kazakhstan."

¶4. (C) COMMENT: Sarybai was very well informed about the
issue and was aware of existing transit agreements with
Germany, France, and Spain. He was slightly surprised by the
fact that the United States was now discussing with Russia
the possibility of allowing transit of lethal materiel
destined for military operations in Afghanistan across
Russian territory. He raised an eyebrow, said, "Well, that's
new," and then moved quickly on to other issues on the
agenda. END COMMENT.

HOAGLAND